

Stephens suggested that WDAU and WNEP be contacted and asked to set up interviews for Pioneer Days.

The matter of acceptance or rejection of the proposed bylaws revisions was then brought up. In essence, they were passed as prepared, with only a small number of minor changes in wording. Mr. Loftus made the motion to accept the revisions, with minor changes, and Mrs. Colville seconded. The members were unanimous in their vote.

Mrs. Colville then made several proposals for nomination to the Board of Directors, namely Mr. Pascoe and Esther Singer. She also suggested that former members of the Board of Trustees be asked to serve on the Board. Mr. Pascoe recommended that Eleanor Spellman and Steve Oliveri be nominated.

Miss Stephens then moved for adjournment, since all business was concluded. Mrs. Colville seconded, with all in favour.

The next general meeting was scheduled for 6 September, since under the newly accepted bylaws, general meetings will only be held once each month.

Robert J. Jomaine, Secretary

The regular monthly meeting of the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, Inc. was held at 7:30 pm, Thursday, 6 September, 1984, in Room 301, Carbondale City Hall. Seven members were in attendance.

S. Robert Powell opened the meeting at precisely 7:30, with a request that the minutes of the previous meeting be read by the Society's Secretary, Robert J. Jomaine. Mr. Jomaine noted, before the reading of said minutes, that he had not recorded the previous meeting himself, due to the fact that on that night he had been attending another meeting in Honesdale. He noted for the record that the notes which the previous meeting's minutes had been compiled from were taken by John Klimkiewicz and Hank Loftus, First and Second Vice-Presidents, respectively, of the Society.

Mr. Jomaine then read the minutes, which were approved with no changes. He also noted that the new bylaws were completed, and that he would be sending a copy of them to Josephine Truener, of the Susquehanna Historical Society, which is in the process of organizing itself. He explained that in early August, he and Mr. Loftus had attended a meeting of the Susquehanna group, at which time they had requested a copy be forwarded for their use as a guide. They had also indicated at that time that they would be interested in developing a close relationship with the Carbondale Historical Society. Mr. Jomaine noted that he would offer the Society's support in the cover letter that would be included with the copy of the bylaws.

Dr. Powell then stated that Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Shifler have recently indicated a desire to once again become active in the organization. The Shiflers have informed him that the Allyn Benson Revue is interested in putting on a benefit show, entitled "Touch of Class," for the Society. The cost to the Society would be \$500. The group needs a location, and has said that anywhere but the Carbondale Area High School would be suitable. Marion Hall was suggested as a possibility. Miss Susan Stephens made a motion to sponsor the concert, if feasible, and Mr. Loftus seconded. Mr. Loftus also offered to contact both St. Joseph's Hospital regarding the use of Marion Hall, and Trinity Episcopal Church for the use of Durfee Hall.

The matter of the Washington School was then brought up. The Carbondale Area School District was offered a bid of \$8700 by John Savage for the building, but they had previously set a minimum bid of \$15,000. Mr. Loftus opined that the Society should investigate the matter. He suggested that it be agreed that if the Society should become defunct in the future, the property would then revert back to the school district. Joseph Pascoe mentioned the possible problems involved in such an undertaking, particularly maintaining and insuring the building. Dr. Powell stated that he is opposed to the Society's taking over the building, and described it as a potential millstone. Mr. Jomaine noted that he had learned from an anonymous but nonetheless reliable source that the Society would probably be able to acquire the school simply by asking for it. Several other members noted that they too had gotten the same information. It was agreed that should the Society be successful in its bid for the grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the school could be most useful in light of the fact that the former Post Office is no longer

Mr. Yepsen then commended Dr. Powell on the quality of the newsletter, and stated that it was his opinion that the use of "stuffers" was important. Mr. Loftus then suggested that a calendar/planner be used as an aid in the membership drive and the Society's other projects. He stated that he had already begun work on a rough draft of such a calendar. It was agreed that such a plan be implemented.

Mr. Yepsen then stated that the Society has been given the sign that was formerly at the Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Gordon Postelthwaite had made the arrangements for the gift, and Dr. Powell stated that he would write her and thank her. At this point, it is somewhat less than clear exactly what use the sign will be put to.

Mr. Yepsen also offered to check into various places that the Society may wish to hold its annual meeting and dinner. It was agreed that the event will be held near, but not on, 6 November, since that is Election Day. Mr. Jomaine suggested that James Barret McHittity, Mayor of the City of Scranton, be asked to serve as the guest speaker. Dr. Powell stated that he would contact Mayor McHittity on the matter. It was then reported that on 10 August, Frank Lee, of the Mitchell Hose Company, had turned over to the Society a large quantity of circa 1900 Mitchell uniforms, consisting of 31 pairs of pants, 36 jackets, and 4 hats, all blue with gold trim. Presently, they are being stored in Room 301, City Hall. Dr. Powell will write a letter of thanks.

Also on 10 August, it was reported that Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Colville gave the Society a number of items, including the original mantle from the Hendrick estate, a fence for the park area surrounding the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission marker at the side of City Hall, and a quantity of antique automotive parts.

On 13 August, Mary Louise Doerrie wrote Dr. Powell that the 1929 graduating class of the Carbondale High School had given the surplus of the reunion funds to the Society as a memorial tribute. The amount was \$65.00, and Dr. Powell noted that a similar gift had been received from the class of 1934, in the amount of \$100.00.

On 16 August, Mr. and Mrs. Shifler gave the Society a large collection of artifacts, including a silk top hat, garments, a large number of papers from the Century Club, and a wheelbarrow wheel, made of wood, and ensigned with the name of the Delaware & Hudson Canal Company. Dr. Powell opined that this item is probably unique.

It was then reported that Pioneer Days had been an unqualified success. Dr. Powell noted that there had been several minor problems, particularly with children, in City Hall. He added that the success was entirely attributable to John Klimkiewicz and the two other summer employees, Brenda Huddige and Gerald Ruddy. It was noted for the record that Howard Yepsen and Donald Powell carried the City Flag in the parade, Mr. Klimkiewicz and Miss Stephens handed out brochures on the Society, and Tina Stachnowich led the 200 year old dog. Jay Sara read a text prepared for the occasion by Dr. Powell, and Frank Andrews, of WNEP, interviewed Dr. Powell live.

For the record, it was noted that the concert proposed by Vincent Bilotta is officially a dead issue.

Dr. Powell reported that the Bethany Library has requested that he show the film

available. This would allow the Society to move into the school and use it as a museum facility. It was agreed that Mr. Loftus would attempt to "shell off" any decision by the district until the Society learns of the results of the grant application. Dr. Powell volunteered to meet with Felix Jalvo, a member of the School Board.

Dr. Powell then brought up the matter of Mr. and Mrs. John Bauman, and their various gifts to the Society. He noted that on 4 September, he and Jean Colville had visited the Baumans, and learned that they have the former fountain from Carbondale Memorial Park, which they have decided to give to the Society. They have also given the Society two large marble pedestals from St. Rose convent.

Dr. Powell also stated that they are concerned over the Society's plans for the New York, Ontario, and Western Railway cars they have given, as well as the gift of the lumber for use in the restoration of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company Sawdust Railroad Shops on North Main Street. He noted that they had thought that perhaps internal problems in the Society had led to the recent destruction of the NW&W passenger coach by fire. Dr. Powell noted that action must be taken on these gifts in the very near future. Mr. Jomaine added that later in the meeting, he would bring up another, related matter.

Dr. Powell then read a letter that he had received from the United States Postal Service. Robert P. Craig had responded to a letter from Dr. Powell of 13 August. In the reply, he acknowledged that the promised covenants, to maintain the historic and architectural integrity of the building, had been placed on the deed. Additionally, he stated that the various bidders had known about the restrictions prior to placing their bids, since the restrictions were explained in the bid specifications. Dr. Powell termed the letter "a great victory" for the Society. He also commended Mr. Waters, of the Scranton Tribune, for getting the matter on the record in the newspaper. Mr. Loftus pointed out that the new owners may be receptive to letting the Society use a part of the building. Dr. Powell stated that the Society should be, and is, entirely willing to work with the new owners in seeing that the building is put to the highest and best possible use.

Dr. Powell then asked that a work session be set up in the near future to prepare tax returns for the now-defunct "Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall." Dr. Powell, Mr. Jomaine, and Howard Yepsen will meet at 9:00 am, Saturday, 9 September in Room 301, City Hall to deal with the matter.

Dr. Powell also reported that \$3000 had been paid to the First National Bank of Carbondale, and \$500 had been paid to the Liberty Discount and Savings Bank. Both are payments on the loans that had been taken out for the repairs to the roof of Carbondale City Hall, and both payments were made on 31 August.

On the matter of membership renewal, it was decided that Mr. Loftus and Miss Stephens would be in charge of the project. Dr. Powell suggested the use of the most recent issue of the Society's newsletter as a tool in the membership drive.